

BUDGET PROCESS

Budget Adoption

The City of Greensboro Budget is adopted by ordinance in accordance with North Carolina General Statutes which require that estimated revenues and appropriated fund balances be equal to appropriations. The budget is developed on a cash basis, including only expenditures and revenues expected to be realized during the fiscal year. The budget is adopted, however, on a modified accrual basis with sufficient appropriations for encumbrances (outstanding purchase orders and contracts as of June 30) carried over into the new year. All operating funds reasonably expected to be received are included in the Budget Ordinance and are expended in accordance with the adopted ordinance. State statute also sets the fiscal year as beginning July 1 and ending June 30. Therefore, City Council must adopt a budget before July 1 of each year.

Developed on a program basis, the budget depicts all services provided by the City and resources allocated for the provision of these services. Organizational strategic priorities are developed by City Council and City staff and are used as major guidelines in the development of funding recommendations. The programs outlined in the budget are implemented by the various departments and offices within the City organization.

Budget Amendments

City Council is permitted by state statute to amend the Budget Ordinance anytime during the fiscal year. These amendments must continue to adhere to the balanced budget statutory requirements and cannot change the property tax levy or in any manner alter a taxpayer's liability.

The City of Greensboro Budget is a program based budget, but is adopted by funds. Ordinances approved by City Council are required to increase or decrease appropriations in any fund. Budget adjustments within the same fund may be approved by the Budget Officer and reported to City Council.

Budget Maintenance

In accordance with the General Statutes of the State of North Carolina, the City prepares and adopts its budget on the modified accrual accounting basis. The City of Greensboro Budget

is developed by accounts which relate to the City's financial accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled.

The accounts of the City are organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures or expenses, as appropriate.

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred. Budget expenditures are controlled through the City's accounting system and the purchase order system. Departments have flexibility in divisional expenditures within major categories, such as maintenance and operations expenditures. All encumbrances on the accounting system on June 30 automatically carry over into the next year's budget cycle. During the year, budget adjustments between divisions and account groups are reviewed by the Budget and Evaluation Department and approved adjustments are reported to City Council.

Budget Calendar

The City of Greensboro budget process begins in October with the development of proposed new and revised capital improvements projects and the identification of key departmental issues. Usually in late fall, a City Council/Staff Planning Conference is held to review the financial condition and budget forecasts for the City and to develop budget priorities and management objectives for the upcoming budget process. In May, the Recommended Capital Improvements Program (CIP), a six-year planning document outlining major, non-recurring projects requiring multiple-year financing, and the Recommended Budget are presented to City Council.

Important steps in the development of the two-year budget are given on the following page.

Budget Process

Fall

November

January

February

March/April

May

May/June

June

July

